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Internships Hit Second Straight High at Illinois Wesleyan

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Internships for students at Illinois Wesleyan University climbed to 150, up from last spring's high of 146 and well above the five-year average of 111. Students found internship positions at more than 75 locations in Illinois and across the country, with many hoping these experiences will increase their attractiveness to employers upon graduation.

"Interest in internships continues to be high on both sides, as employers value the role interns play in their organizations and increasingly use internships as a hiring pipeline for their full-time positions," said Laurie Diekhoff, assistant director and internship coordinator at the **Hart Career Center** at Illinois Wesleyan.

"Students see value in internships as a source of relevant, 'real-world' experience and a chance to further define their career interests."

Diekhoff added that many students now regard internships as a requirement rather than an optional component of their college experiences.

Of the 150 interns, 60 students are being paid for their work and 92 students are receiving academic credit for their experiences. Diekhoff noted all academic majors value from gaining work experience in their fields of interest. Students majoring in psychology, nursing, environmental studies, political science, business, sociology and other disciplines are interning this spring, she said.

Employers participating range from large public accounting firms in the Chicago area to corporations, numerous nonprofit organizations and health care facilities in central Illinois.



Many students secure internships during the IWU Internship Fair in the fall.

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